

**Listing of claims:**

1 (currently amended): A method for managing a portal, comprising:  
displaying areas and subareas within a navigational hierarchy for the portal; wherein the areas are located at a first level within the hierarchy and the subareas are located at a second level within the hierarchy; wherein the second level is a lower level within the hierarchy than the first level; wherein the areas and subareas that are displayed depend upon security settings associated with the user viewing the portal; wherein the areas and the subareas are elements within the navigational hierarchy; wherein security settings for a child element inherit security settings from the parent;  
receiving a selection of selecting an element from [[a]] the navigational hierarchy, the selected element being associated with a location accessible from the portal, the navigational hierarchy being identified with metadata in a database;  
selecting, receiving a selection at an interface for modifying metadata associated with the element and accessing the location associated with the element, an interaction to be performed on the selected element, wherein the interface includes a menu displayed in association with the selected element of the navigational hierarchy, the menu including actions for modifying metadata of the selected element, and wherein the menu is superimposed over a portion of the navigational hierarchy;  
retrieving metadata associated with the selected interaction and the selected element;  
determining whether the selected interaction corresponds to an action to modify the metadata by distinguishing between an action to modify metadata and a navigational interaction; wherein the location being displayed is displayed simultaneously with the user interface for modifying metadata and the user interface for accessing the location;  
when the interaction selected at the interface for modifying metadata associated with the element and accessing the location associated with the element corresponds to an action to modify the metadata, performing the action with the retrieved metadata and updating the metadata in the database based on the performed action; and

accessing the location from the portal in response to selection of a feature associated with the interaction when the interaction does not correspond to an action.

2 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the element is at least one of an area, a subarea, a listing, an intranet site, and an extranet site.

3 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the element comprises a listing, and wherein the listing is arranged to provide access to at least one of a link, a resource and a page from the portal.

4 (original): The method of Claim 3, wherein the listing is arranged to provide access to at least one of the link, the resource, and the page external to the portal.

5 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the feature is at least one of a link, a resource and a page.

6 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying the navigational hierarchy in accordance with the updated metadata.

7 (original): The method of Claim 1, further comprising authorizing user access to the element in the navigational hierarchy.

8 (original): The method of Claim 7, further comprising displaying the element in the navigational hierarchy that a user is authorized to access.

9 (original): The method of Claim 7, further comprising inheriting user authorization to access the element from a parent element, wherein metadata identifies the parent element and the inherited user authorization.

10 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein selecting the element and selecting the action is performed using a web browser.

11 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the selecting the element and selecting the action is performed by a direct link provided in a uniform resource locator in a web browser.

12 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein performing the action comprises adding an element to the navigational hierarchy.

13 (original): The method of Claim 12, wherein adding the element further comprises adding an element to the navigational hierarchy at a pre-assigned time.

14 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein performing the action comprises removing an element from the navigational hierarchy.

15 (original): The method of Claim 14, wherein removing the element further comprises removing the element from the navigational hierarchy at a pre-assigned time.

16 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein performing the action comprises filtering the element.

17 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein performing the action comprises storing a subset of the retrieved metadata in a cache.

18 (original): The method of Claim 17, wherein retrieving metadata comprises retrieving metadata associated with the element from the cache.

19 (original): The method of Claim 1, further comprising storing subareas and listings associated with a currently selected element in a cache.

20 (original): The method of Claim 19, further comprising retrieving the subareas and listings that a user is authorized to access from the cache.

21 (currently amended): A system for managing a portal, comprising:

a portal manager comprising an element database, the element database storing metadata associated with elements accessible from the portal; and

a user interface in communication with the portal manager for modifying metadata associated with the elements and accessing locations associated with the elements, the user interface:

navigating to a location within the portal to access information stored in the element database;

displaying on a first user interface a navigational hierarchy of the elements accessible from the portal, wherein the elements displayed are selected in response to security settings associated with a user viewing the display; wherein the navigational hierarchy comprises elements that are located at a first level within the hierarchy and elements that are located at a second level within the hierarchy; wherein the second level is a lower level within the hierarchy than the first level; wherein security settings for an element at the second level inherit security settings from a parent element at the first level;

displaying on the first user interface information associated with the elements when they are accessed from the portal, wherein the navigational hierarchy of the elements is arranged in accordance with metadata in the element database,

displaying on the first user interface a menu adjacent to a selected element of the navigational hierarchy, the menu including an action list that includes a list of actions that allow a user to edit the metadata associated with the selected element; wherein the list of actions displayed is dependant upon security privileges associated with the user and on the location within the portal being accessed by the user, the list of actions including an item to manage security settings, the item managing security settings to a currently selected element and child elements of the currently selected element; and

allowing a user to select from the first user interface an interaction from the navigational hierarchy and from the action list;

determining whether a selected interaction corresponds to an action to modify the metadata by distinguishing between an action to modify metadata and a navigational interaction wherein the action to modify includes an action to add new content to the location being

displayed in the user interface; and wherein the information associated with the elements that is being displayed on the first user interface is displayed simultaneously with the action list and the navigation hierarchy.

22 (original): The system of Claim 21, wherein the element database comprises an area database and a listing database, the area database storing metadata associated with areas accessible in the portal, the listing database storing metadata associated with links accessible from the portal.

23 (original): The system of Claim 22, wherein the portal manager further comprises an area cache and a listing cache, the area cache storing a subset of metadata retrieved from the area database, the listing cache storing a subset of metadata retrieved from the listing database.

24 (original): The system of Claim 23, wherein metadata associated with the element is retrieved from the area cache and the listing cache.

25 (original): The system of Claim 21, wherein the portal manager further comprises a security module, wherein the security module is configured to:

identify a user requesting access; and  
authenticate access to at least one of an element and metadata based on the identified user.